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### **REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

Claims 31-33, 35, 37, 81-84, 87, 88 and 90-97. Claims 1-30, 34, 36, 38-80, 85, 86 and 89 have been canceled without prejudice. Claims 31-33, 35, 37, 81-84, 87, 90, 91 and 93-97 have been amended. Support for the amendments is found in the previous claims, which were in turn supported throughout the specification and are depicted in the drawings. Reconsideration of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Applicants have canceled the claimed subject matter rejected over prior art without prejudice to the filing of one or more continuing applications having the same claims. Claims 87, 90 and 91 were made independent by incorporating all of the language from their respective base claims. These claims, along with 88, 92 and 93 were NOT rejected over prior art.

Claims 30-33, 35, 37 and 81-97 were rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph as being indefinite over certain language. Specifically, claim 30 was noted to contain a typographical error. This error was corrected in claims 87, 90 and 91, which incorporated the same language from claim 30 (now canceled). Therefore this rejection has been overcome.

Claims 31, 33, 35, 37 and 94-96 were rejected as not further limiting the base claims. This rejection is respectfully traversed. The base claims recited AT LEAST about 500 and the dependant claims recite AT LEAST about 1,000 (or higher numbers). Applicants submit that the set of numbers AT LEAST about 1,000 is narrower than the set of numbers AT LEAST about 500 because it excludes numbers about 500 to about 999.

Claims 32 and 81 were rejected as vague in the recitation of "a fraction of a biological cell". Specifically, the Examiner questions what part of the biological cell is intended. This rejection is respectfully traversed. From the specification, a fraction is a cellular extract where components have been separated out. The fraction is a complex mixture of cellular components, the exact content of which is usually unknown and dependant upon the separation technique. A more detailed description is in the specification in Paragraph 0159, which states:

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*"Particularly preferred are large numbers of proteins or peptides generated by mass techniques. Different fractions from a separation technique from a natural source provide a resource of many different proteins and peptides. A number of fractionation procedures are known to separate mixtures of many compounds. Different fractions or specific compositions may be used to form a single fiber. Two dimensional electrophoresis gels from serum and other tissue and natural sources produce thousands of different proteins separated on the gel. Each may be removed individually (e.g. cut, eluted etc.) from the gel and used as the molecule of interest to form a single fiber. In such a method, with different bundles being formed from different samples, protein differences between different samples may be readily compared."*

Claim 93 was cited as being vague as to what is removed because the structures project away. This language was amended. A simple example is a larger block of solid material where part of it was etched away leaving projecting structures. For easy understanding, the specification discusses an example of this embodiment in Paragraphs 0141 and 0142:

*[0141] These structures have three-dimensional form and are more than a single layer of molecules bound on the microarray solid support. These are either formed or carved out from a larger structure.*

*[0142] The structures in this embodiment may comprise the solidified contents of a tubular fiber where the outer tube has been degraded or removed leaving behind a microarray having structures resembling small pillars with a gap between them where the tubular material once was. The degradation or removal of the outer tubing may be accomplished by dissolving with a solvent, melting or subliming with heat or chemically degrading. Physical removal of the outer tubing where the solidified contents remain adhered to the solid support may be done by having the solidified contents (but not the tubing) bound to the solid support by physical cleavage with a knife or similar instrument, or by laser, electrical arc or other electromagnetic irradiation to destroy and thereby remove whatever material present between the pillars which remain.*

Claims 30-37, 81-86, 89 and 94-97 were rejected under 35 USC 102(b), as being anticipated by Eggers et al.

It is noted that claims 87, 88 and 90-93 were not rejected. Claims 87, 90 and 91 were made independent incorporating all of the language of base claims 30 and/or 86 from which they depend. All other claims are dependant upon these three independent claims. While applicants may disagree with the examiner's application of Eggers et al, the above

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amendment avoids the rejection completely. Accordingly, this rejection should be withdrawn.

Claims 32-37 were rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by Wagner et al. Those claims are no longer present in their previous form. All claims are dependant on claims 87, 90 and 91, which were not rejected over Wagner et al. While applicants may disagree with the examiner's application of Wagner et al, the above amendment avoids the rejection completely.

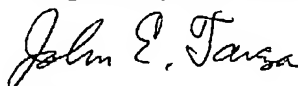
Additionally, Wagner et al is not prior art. A Rule 1.131 declaration filed in a related parent patent application 09/482,460 also antedates this reference.

Accordingly, this rejection should be withdrawn.

In view of the amendments and comments above, the rejections have been overcome. Reconsideration, withdrawal of the rejections and early indication of allowance are respectfully requested. If any issues remain, the examiner is encouraged to call the undersigned for prompt resolution.

If needed, applicants petition for an extension of time under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a) for sufficient time to accept this response. The commissioner hereby is authorized to charge payment of any fees under 37 CFR § 1.17, which may become due in connection with the instant application or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No.500933.

Respectfully submitted,



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Attachment: Petition for a One-Month Extension of Time

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